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Pennsylvania Press Release

PRESS RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA RED MEAT PRODUCTION UP 1 PERCENT

HARRISBURG --- Commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in **Pennsylvania** during March 2000 totaled 102.5 million pounds, up 1 percent from March 1999, according to the Pennsylvania Agricultural Statistics Service (PASS).

Beef production, at 109.2 million pounds live weight, was up 5 percent from March 1999. Total head slaughtered was 86,800, up 4 percent. Live weight averaged 1,258 pounds, an increase of 11 pounds. Veal production was 5.4 million pounds live weight, up less than 1 percent. Calf slaughter of 15,100 head was down 8 percent from last year. Average live weight increased 32 pounds to 356 pounds.

Pork production was 53.7 million pounds live weight, down 3 percent from last year. Total head slaughtered was 219,900, down 3 percent from March 1999. Average live weight was unchanged at 244 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production during March 2000 was 425,000 pounds live weight, down 47 percent. The number slaughtered was 4,500, down 42 percent. Average live weight decreased 10 pounds to 95 pounds.

Nationally, commercial red meat production, dressed weight basis, in March 2000 totaled 4.04 billion pounds, up 1 percent from the previous record high of 4.02 billion pounds produced in March 1999. Compared with a year earlier beef production, dressed weight basis, at 2.30 billion pounds, was up 3 percent. Veal production, at 20 million pounds, was down 2 percent from the previous record low for March set a year ago.

Pork production totaled 1.70 billion pounds, down 2 percent from the previous year. Lamb and mutton production, at 24.0 million pounds, was down 17 percent from March 1999 and down 8 percent from the previous record low for March set in 1997 and 1998.

January-March red meat production was 11.6 billion pounds, 2 percent above the comparable figure a year earlier. Accumulated beef production was up 4 percent from last year, veal was up 1 percent, pork was down 1 percent, and lamb and mutton was down 6 percent.